

# High Plains Regional Climate Center

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## Let's Build a Barometer!

### Materials Needed:

- Small glass jar or tin can
- Rubber balloon (12")
- Straw or popsicle stick
- Sheet of paper
- Rubber band
- Scissors
- Tape

### Procedure:

1) Blow air into the balloon and let the air out. (This will stretch the balloon.)

5) Place one end of the straw in the center of the balloon and secure with tape. Part of the straw should be hanging off the edge of the jar.

2) Use the scissors to cut the balloon.

6) Tape a piece of paper to the wall and place the barometer next to it.

3) Tightly stretch the top of the balloon over the top of the jar or tin.

4) Secure the balloon to the jar by wrapping the rubber band around both the outer rim of the jar and the balloon. Make sure it is wrapped tightly so that no air can get inside the jar.

7) Make a mark on the paper that shows the current pressure. (You may want to put the date and time by the mark.)

8) Your barometer is ready to use! Place the barometer in a place where it can easily be read everyday.

If the straw points **above** the previous day's mark, the pressure is **rising**. Rising pressure indicates that fair weather is on the way. If the straw points **below** the previous day's mark, the pressure is **falling**. Falling pressure indicates that stormy weather could occur.

**Tip:** For consistent measurements try to read your barometer at the same temperature each day. The balloon will contract and expand with changing temperatures.